

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 18.

Please amend claims 1, 4, 17, 19, 20, 23, and 24 as follows.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink container comprising:

a housing having a chamber formed therein for receiving ink and a surface including an outlet passage communicating with the chamber and through which ink is dispensed; and

an air impermeable, non-porous seal member received in the outlet passage, said seal member comprising ~~raised portions on a~~ substantially V-shaped first surface having a first vertex and a substantially V-shaped second surface having a second vertex, wherein said surfaces are on opposite sides of said member, and said surfaces are adapted to be compressed when said seal member is installed in said outlet passage.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The ink container of claim 1, further comprising a cap member having a recess for receiving said outlet passage.

4. (Currently Amended) The ink container of claim 3, wherein an outer terminal end of said outlet passage comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib extending at least partially along a circumference thereof for contacting and thermally bonding said cap to said outlet passage.

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5. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 3, wherein said seal is adapted to be linearly compressed between said cap and said outlet passage.
6. (Original) The ink container of claim 3, wherein said cap is formed of plastic.
7. (Original) The ink container of claim 1, wherein said seal member is formed of a rubber.
8. (Original) The ink container of claim 1, wherein the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC).
9. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein said seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber.
10. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein said seal member is formed of silicone rubber.
11. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 1, wherein said seal member engages an inner wall of said outlet passage.
12. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across the first surface of said seal member, said thin membrane adapted to be selectively pierced by an associated needle of an associated printer.
13. (Original) The ink container of claim 1 wherein the seal member has a substantially disk shape.

14. (Previously Presented) The ink container of claim 13 wherein the outlet passage includes a counterbore at an outer terminal end that receives the disk-shaped seal member therein.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A method of sealing an outlet port of an ink container, comprising:

inserting a generally annular-shaped seal member into a counterbore of said outlet port formed at an outer terminal end portion of said outlet port;

placing a cap member over said outer portion of said outlet port;

linearly compressing said seal member between said cap and outlet port; and
welding said cap member to said outlet port.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said seal member comprises ~~ridges formed on a substantially V-shaped first and second surfaces of said seal member, wherein said substantially V-shaped surfaces ridges~~ are contacted by said cap member and said outer terminal end portion of said outlet port during compression.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[18]] 16, wherein said outlet passage port comprises a generally triangular-shaped rib on said outer terminal end portion thereof which contacts said cap and is melted via welding until substantially flush with said outer surface portion.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said seal member engages an inner wall of said outlet passage port.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across an inner periphery of said seal member adjacent a first surface of said seal member.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the seal member has a substantially disk shape.

23. (Currently Amended) A seal member for an ink container, comprising:
a lower surface;
an upper surface located on an opposite side of said seal member from said lower surface;

[[a]] an outer sidewall extending between said lower and upper surfaces, said sidewall having a tapered surface extending between and connecting said lower surface and said upper surface, wherein said upper surface has a larger diameter than said lower surface;

wherein said seal member has a substantially disk shape;
wherein said lower and upper surfaces each comprises a raised portion extending across said surfaces.

24. (Currently Amended) The said member of claim 23, wherein said upper and lower surfaces raised portions are substantially V-shaped.

25. (Original) The seal member of claim 23, wherein said seal member is formed of a rubber.

26. (Original) The seal member of claim 23, wherein the seal member is formed of a polyvinyl chloride (PVC).

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27. (Original) The seal member of claim 23 wherein said seal member is formed of a thermoplastic rubber.

28. (Previously Presented) The seal member of claim 23 wherein the seal member includes a thin membrane extending across said lower surface of said seal member.

29. (Previously Presented) The seal member of claim 23 wherein said upper and lower surfaces of the seal member together form a generally toroidal-shaped portion.